AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 to 6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method for diagnosing a dynamic characteristics of a lambda sensor, which is used at least intermittently for a cylinder-individual lambda control, the method comprising:

detecting at least one actuating variable of the lambda control;

comparing the at least one actuating ~~actual~~ variable to a specifiable maximum threshold; and

if the maximum threshold is exceeded, determining that a dynamic response of the lambda sensor is ~~deemed~~ insufficient with respect to usability for the cylinder-individual lambda control.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein:

the value of lambda of at least one cylinder is detuned by a specifiable value; and ~~it is ascertained~~

whether the detuning by the specifiable value is reflected as an offset or a factor in an actuating variable of a particular controller of the lambda control is ascertained.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein, ~~it is ascertained~~ whether a difference or an absolute value of the difference between detuning and offset is smaller than the specifiable maximum threshold is ascertained.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the value of lambda is detuned by variation of the cylinder-individual fuel metering.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the value of lambda is detuned by variation of the cylinder-individual fuel metering.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

detecting a suitable operating range for the cylinder-individual lambda control;

monitoring the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers; and [[,]]

if at least one of the actuating variables exceeds its maximum amount, ~~implementing the following:~~ detecting a suitable instant for implementing the following:

> buffer-storing the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers;
>
> detuning the value of lambda of at least one cylinder by the specifiable value;
>
> monitoring the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers; and
>
> determining whether the lambda controllers are able to compensate the

detuning of the value of lambda, and if the lambda controllers are able to do so, cancellating the detuning, and re-initializing the individual lambda controllers by the buffer-stored actuating variables; and otherwise, outputting a fault signal.

13. (Currently Amended) A diagnosis device for diagnosing a dynamic characteristics of a lambda sensor, which is used at least intermittently for a cylinder-individual lambda control, comprising:

a detecting arrangement to detect at least one actuating variable of the lambda control;

a comparing arrangement to compare the at least one <u>actuating</u> ~~actual~~ variable to a specifiable maximum threshold; and

an arrangement to determine, if the maximum threshold is exceeded, that a dynamic response of the lambda sensor is ~~deemed~~ insufficient with respect to usability for the cylinder-individual lambda control.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein:

the value of lambda of at least one cylinder is detuned by a specifiable value; and

whether the detuning by the specifiable value is reflected as an offset or a factor in an actuating variable of a particular controller of the lambda control is ascertained.

15. (New) The diagnosis device of claim 14, wherein the value of lambda is detuned by variation of the cylinder-individual fuel metering.

16. (New) The diagnosis device of claim 14, wherein, whether a difference or an absolute value of the difference between detuning and offset is smaller than the specifiable maximum threshold is ascertained.

17. (New) The diagnosis device of claim 16, wherein the value of lambda is detuned by variation of the cylinder-individual fuel metering.

18. (New) The diagnosis device of claim 16, further comprising:

a detecting arrangement to detect a suitable operating range for the cylinder-individual lambda control;

a monitoring arrangement to monitor the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers; and

a detecting arrangement to detect, if at least one of the actuating variables exceeds its maximum amount, a suitable instant for implementing the following:

        buffer-storing the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers;

        detuning the value of lambda of at least one cylinder by the specifiable value;

        monitoring the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers; and

        determining whether the lambda controllers are able to compensate the detuning of the value of lambda, and if the lambda controllers are able to do so, cancellating the detuning, and re-initializing the individual lambda controllers by the buffer-stored actuating variables; and otherwise, outputting a fault signal.